

Serial No.: 09/912,601

1. (Twice Amended) An explosive ammunition having a fragmenting structure comprising:

an explosive charge located in a splinter-generating inner shell;

a case enclosing the inner shell; and

means for generating a mechanical stress differential at the outside surface of the inner shell during initiation of the explosive charge, wherein

said inner shell comprises an outer surface for transmitting a first force during ammunition initiation to said means for generating a mechanical stress differential,

said means for generating a mechanical stress differential is for transmitting said first force substantially to an inner surface of the outer shell and for transmitting a second force substantially to said inner shell outer surface, thereby generating mechanical stress differential therein, wherein

said stress differential is spatially distributed across the inner shell and induces splinter generation of the inner shell.

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3. (Thrice Amended) The explosive ammunition according to claim 1, wherein the means for generating a stress differential comprises a netting solidly joined to the case or placed between the case and the shell, said netting constituting a weakening array.

6. (Thrice Amended) The explosive ammunition according to claim 3, wherein the array is fitted with square elementary meshes.